

It is time to clear up several misconceptions concerning a recent policy instituted by the City of Troy introducing "Zero Tolerance" to the code enforcement department.

Earlier this year during the State of the City speech my administration unveiled a change in Code Enforcement that would force owners to fix consistent problems with their buildings and not be allowed to make excuse after excuse.

In the wake of the concern over the Cinema Art Theater several people in the City of Troy have attempted to blame this "Zero Tolerance" approach for the situation on the front of that building. That is misguided and unfortunate.

To be clear, the Zero Tolerance approach to Code Enforcement does not mean we will demolish the building if it is not fixed. We will not demolish a building simply because the use may not be popular. We will not demolish a building, or any part of it, in an attempt to send a message. And we will not demolish a building because it is in a poor neighborhood.

As explained from the first instance it was mentioned, Zero Tolerance has one goal, to crackdown on property owners in Troy whose actions destroy the quality of life that every neighborhood deserves.

This policy intends to make code issues the number one priority of the department. If someone refuses to take care of an issue, they will be fined and brought to court. This policy intends to make our neighborhoods a more enjoyable place to live, work and play.

What the policy does not intend to do is tear down buildings for no reason. When it comes to the demolition of any structure, it is the safety of the residents of Troy that must always be the priority.

Troy is a remarkable place, full of history and character. It is the passion of its people that makes it such an enjoyable place. And at times, that passion can lead to misinformation.

I believe in the history of this City, and this administration is constantly working to ensure it is part of our future. The Zero Tolerance Policy is meant to protect our history, to not allow buildings to become afterthoughts as they have for the past two decades. I give my word to any Troy resident that may be concerned about this policy, it is meant to protect our history, not to harm it in any manner.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy